

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:592

ANSWERED ON:21.11.2002

DEVELOPMENT OF REGIONAL AND SMALL NEWSPAPERS

VSM (RETD.) COL. CHOUDHARY

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to develop regional and small newspapers;
- (b) if so, action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government have taken note of harassment of small newspapers by the Registrar of Newspapers of India, New Delhi;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government propose to issue directives and lay down time & guidelines for Registration of newspapers especially small newspapers published from backward desert area of Rajasthan to avoid delay and inconvenience;
- (f) if so, details thereof; and
- (g) if not, reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a) & (b) As per the advertising policy, Government advertisements are not intended to be financial assistance to newspapers. The Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP) releases advertisements in newspapers as per publicity requirement and availability of funds. Efforts are being made to ensure release of at least 9 advertisements in a year to small and medium newspapers.

(c), (d), (e), (f) & (g): The Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI) follow the procedure prescribed in the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867 and the Registration of Newspapers (Central) Rules, 1956 for verification and registration of titles of newspapers. Procedure for circulation check has also been prescribed by RNI. Some times, there is delay on account of non submission of required documents by the publisher for title verification/registration/circulation check. In case of application made with complete documentation, registration is completed, preferably, within 30 days.